

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONDUCTING A CONFIDENTIAL SEARCH**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for conducting a confidential search. The method comprises accessing one or more terms associated with one or more nodes of a network, encrypting the accessed one or more terms and receiving an encrypted search term from a user. The method further comprises comparing the received encrypted search term with at least a portion of the encrypted accessed terms and providing a result of the comparison to the user.